FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: NEW ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

OT RECORDED MAY 28 1974

56 MAY 29 1974

1,000 GATHER HERE AT ZIONIST MEETING

Messages From Jan Smuts and Lehman Are Read as Convention Opens

PALESTINE WAR AID CITED

Role as Refuge for Persons of
All Faiths and Fighting

| Factor Reviewed

With a message from General Jan Christian Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, expressing "the strong hope that the present world crisis would mark a long step forward toward the realization of the Monist vision," and other messages lauding the contribution of Palestine Jews to the United Nations' war effort, the forty fifth annual convention of the Jionist Organization of America opened last night at the Hotel New Yorker.

The convention, which will be devoted not only to the problems of the Zionist movement but also to the plight of millions of Jews throughout the world, is attended by 1,000 delegates, representing various branches of the organization throughout the country.

In a message to the opening meeting to the National Administrative Council of the organization, Harold Butler, British Minister attached to the British Ministry of Information in this country, praised the organization's "great contribution to the struggle being made by all the democratic powers against that hostile coalition, the head of which is also the principal foe of Jewry."

Lehman Sends Message

Governor Lehman, in another message, said:

"Palestine has become a symbol of democracy throughout the world. It is a place where men may live, think, and speak as they will. In the past five years, it has been a most important refuge to thousands of all faiths who have been driven from their homes in Europe by brutality, cruelty and oppression. The American people have realized how important a place Palestine now holds in the world scheme of freedom, democracy and security."

Presiding at the meeting of the council, Dr. James G. Heller, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, who is Rabbi of the Isaac M. Wise Temple in Cincinnati, deplored the "abysmal lethargy and sallousness" of the world in its stitude toward the plight of the flew. The Zionists, he warned, must exercise a "mighty"

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effort to awake the world to the desperate sketus of the Jew the need for a statemanlike this proach to the solution of this problem."

Simon-Shetzer, executive director, reported that the Zionist Ortor, reported the Zionist Ortor,

Simon Shetzer, tor, reported that the Zionist Ortor, reported that the Zionist Organization of America now had a ganization of America membership of the parent total membership of the

new member now is a recruit in the fight of the United Nations. If we were to subtract from the scene in the Middle East all that the Zionists have accomplished in Palestine, ** there would be a gap that would not be little felt by the forces holding up the Nazi hordes."

War Ald of Jews Cited

Judge Louis E. Levinthol of the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia, president of the organization, who will deliver the presidential address tonight, pointed to the "significant contribution of Pales" in Jewry to the war effort of the United Nations," saying more than 19,000 Jews of Palestine were already serving under arms, with thousands more ready to enlist in the ranks of a separate Jewish fighting force as soon as one was formed.

Bernard A. Rosenblatt, chairman of the Palestine Foundation Fund, told the council that "investment in the Zionist effort is beginning to return great dividends to the Jewish people."

Before the meeting of the council, a special Hebrew culture and cil, a special Hebrew culture and Jewish education session was held under the joint auspices of the under the joint auspices of the Zionist Organization of Arasrics and the Histadruth Ivrith. This was in the form of a symposium was in the form of a symposium presided over by Samuel J. Borowsky of New York.

sky of New York.

Morning, noon and evening sessions will be held as the convention continues through Sunday.

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PORM OC-108 SPECIAL NOTICE—The attached information was taken from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be information must be confined only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case widely distributed, or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent. BYRON F	the prese

23 Novomber 1943

Event Speaker Place DISCUSSION OF ZIONISM Rabbi James G. Heller

Jewish Community Center Auditorium, San Francisco

San F 2 18 Nóve 5 ttendance: Approvi

18 November 1943

Attendance Approximately 1,000

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This meeting attracted an overflow crowd to the Jewish Community Center auditorium which was quickly filled, and other rooms had to be used to provide accommodation for those who wished to hear the address of Rabbi James G. Heller over the loud speaker.

Dr. Heller, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Zionist Organization of America, devoted the greater part of his address to a defense of the Zionist movement, and was particularly emphatic in denying charges brought against the Zionists by representatives of the imerican Council for Judaism. This latter organization has recently been very active in the San Francisco Bay area.

Supporters of the American Council for Judaism have recently attacked the Zionist program for its primarily "political" and "nationalistic" aims. In Zionist overemphasis on "political activities" these anti-Zionists see the danger of dual loyalty which night result in the subordination of American interests to those of a Jewish RECORDED.

In answer to these arguments Dr. Heller-vigorousi, repudiated the idea of dual allegiance, except DEC129 1943

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sense that Jews should be true both to their faith and to their country of adoption. American Zionists were no less patriotic than any other Americans, Dr. Heller asserted. In his opinion nothing could be more in keeping with the spiritual mission of Judaism than the provision of a national homeland for persecuted Jews.

On the question of the number of Jewish immigrants
Palestine could absorb Dr. Heller expressed the belief
that further land utilization resulting from new irrigation projects would permit an increase of perhaps
4,000,000 in the Jewish population. Progress in industrialization would in all probability add to this estimate,
Thus, said Dr. Heller, Palestine might easily absorb the
1,300,000 Jews who had fled from Poland to Soviet Russia,
and who in his opinion were not anxious either to return
to Poland or to remain in the USSR.

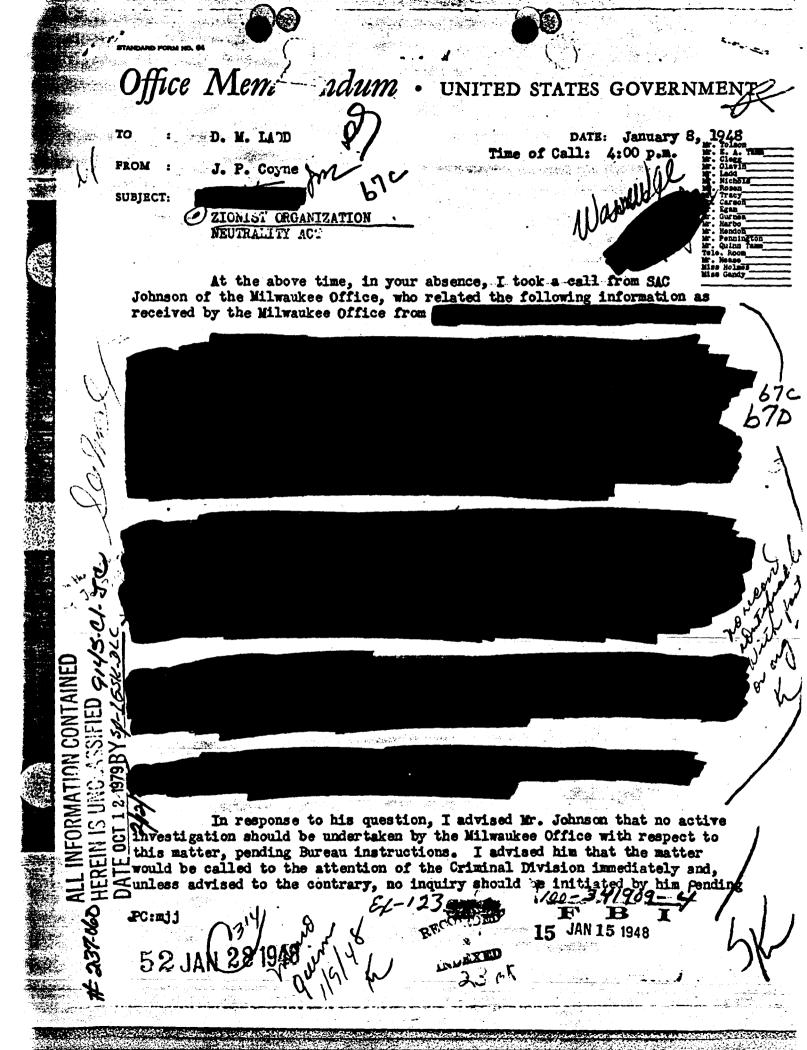
Dr. Heller estimated the number of Jews in occupied Europe to be 2,000,000. He feared, however, that this number would be reduced to "a more handful" if the Nazis remained in control for another year.

Jewish immigration into Palestine and a democratic regime in that country once the Jews Had won a majority. He pointed out that the setting up of democratic machinery now (as desired by the American Council of Judaism) would have held a limited of Judaism would have held a limited of limited of Judaism would have held a limited of limite

in his view play into the hands of the Arabs and other anti-Jowish elements.

British foreign and colonial policy was discussed with considerable bitterness. Dr. Heller expressed the hope, however, that the combination of new international controls and the more liberal political attitude of the British people would in time combine to ease the tension between Great Britain and the Jews. Thile the "Thite Paper" would not be repudiated by the British Government its anti-Jewish clauses would gradually be set aside, Dr. Heller believed.

A good deal of attention was paid to the "democratic" and "representative" character of the American Jewish Conference. According to Dr. Heller, about eighty per cent of the delegates to the Conference were Zionists who had been chosen by American Jews in an election which gave all Jewish groups the opportunity to secure proper representation. No protests of unfair electoral methods had been brought before a special board of elections set up by the Conference. Moreover, he affirmed, the Conference had proved its "democratic" character by winning the affiliation of Jewish organizations which represented fifty per cent of the total American Jewish community and: "a tremendous majority" of the adult American Jews who have interested themselves in political matters;

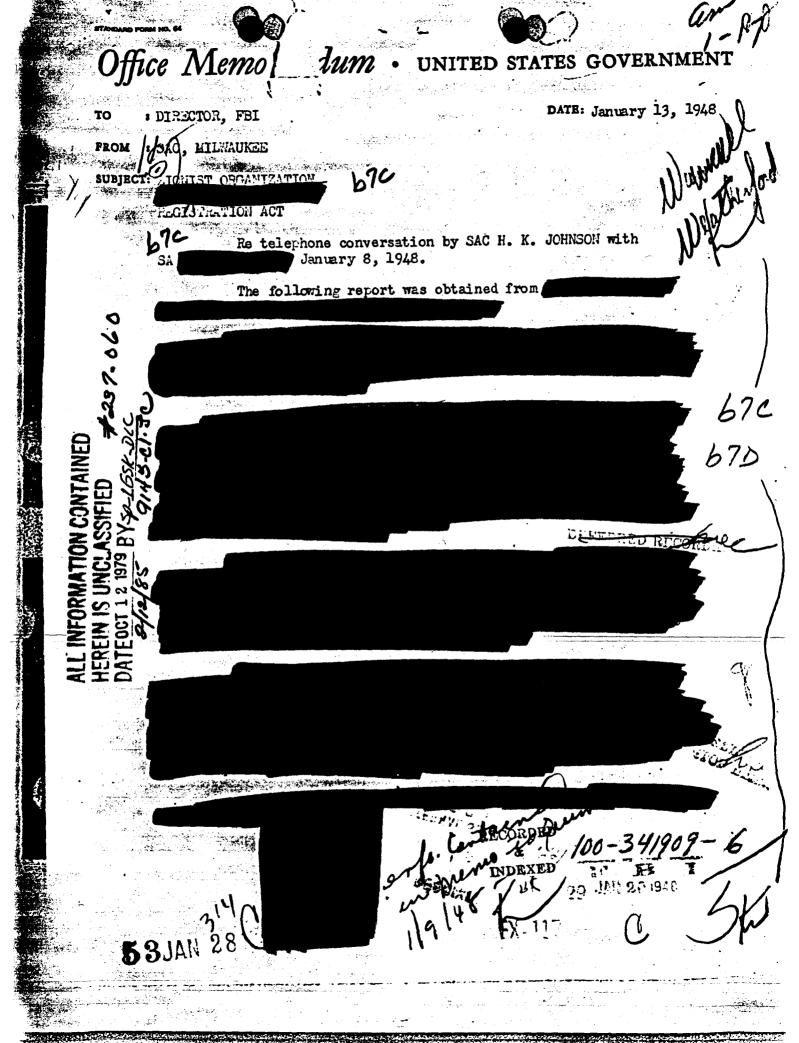


the receipt of contrary instructions from the Bureau.

Mr. Johnson indicated that he would make the information concerning available to his good contacts at for any action they considered apropos, without leaving any impression that our Milwaukee Office was requesting an investigation

Ordinarily, we would initiate Neutrality Act inquiries without prior referral to and approval of the Criminal Division, but in view of the delicacy of the current Palestinian situation, and of the concern recently expressed by the Director relative to certain of the Bureau activity in this general field, it is felt that prior to the initiation of investigation, we should put such matters as the foregoing up to the Department for advice. To that end, there will be prepared immediately a memorandum to the Criminal Division.

sistant Attorney General T. Vincent Onion Criminal Division Director, PHI IS UNCLASSIFIED ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OCT 1 2 1979 BY Sp-1 63K FOLC NEUTRALITY ACT 9143.01.50 237.060 I have been informed by the Milwaukee Office of this Bureau that The Hillwankee Office received information from I shall appreciate being advised as expeditionaly as possible if you feel that from the information stated herein, any inquiry should be condusted by the Pareau with reference to these meetings. No action is contemplated by the Missakee Office pending a reply from year COMMUNICATIONS SECTION RECORDED MAILED \$ JAN 9 1948 P.M. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TU'S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RECEIVER



Director, FBI January 13, 1948 Fage Tro The second secon was advised by SAC H. K. JOHNSON that the Milwaukee Office was not conducting any investigation in the matter. 670 ascertained that SA was active in a Falestine Welfare Organization, the exact name of which is unknown. In accordance with instructions supplied by SA tigation will be conducted in this matter without prior Bureau authority. 670 97-0-6A







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SAC, Milwaukee

February 13, 1948

Director, FBI

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ZIONIST ORGANIZATION:

MEUTRALITY ACT:

REGISTRATION ACT

341909-

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 13, 1946, captioned "Zionist Organisation; Jack Post, Organiser, Registration Act, your file \$97-0-64.

The information furnished by your office has been made available to the Criminal Division of the Department and the Bureau is now in receipt of a memoradum from Assistant Attorney General T. Vincent Quinn, dated February 6, 1968, which is quoted herewith:

*Reference is made to your memorandum of January 9, 1948, regarding above subject in which it was stated that

STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE P WIt is requested that an investigation be conducted to determine, if possible, the name of the organisation responsible for

In accordance with the request of Mr. Quinn, you are instructed to institute an investigation in an effort to determine the name: of the organization

Inquiry should likewise be made to determine

MAILED 3, 1.6 1948 P.M. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE OCT 1 2 1979 BY 51-165K-DL

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

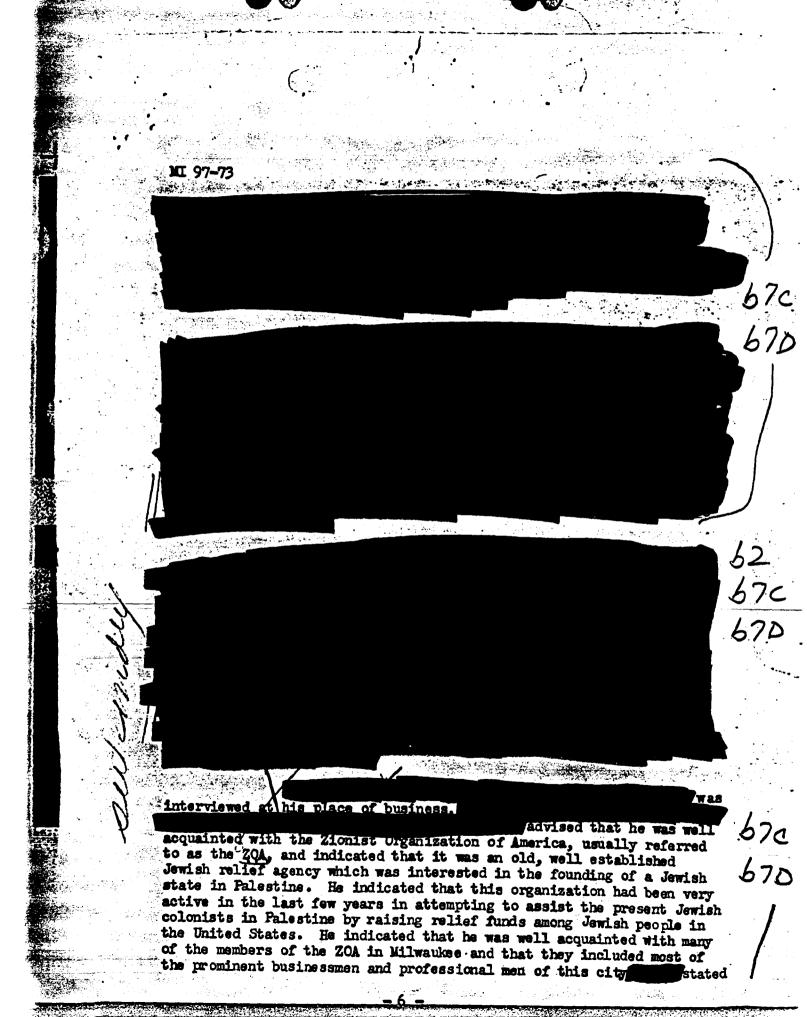
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MI 97-73

that the ZOA was a national organization with headquarters in New York City and with branches in all of the larger cities of the United States. He advised that that organization was presently actively soliciting relief funds for the purpose of providing food, clothing and tools for the people of Palestine and indicated that all funds and relief goods were being transmitted with the knowledge of and consent of the proper authorities. He indicated that the present chairman of the Milwaukee Zionist District was Dr. L. W. BLUMENTHAL, a well known Milwaukee dentist. He advised that to the best of his knowledge none of the members of this organization in Milwaukee were attempting to raise funds for the purchase of arms and ammunition in order to enable the Jewish colonizers in Palestine to fight the Arabs.

The files of the Milwaukee Journal newspaper relative to the ZOA reflected that the organization has been in existence for many years with the purpose of promoting the large scale Jewish colonization of Palestine. They indicate that one of the national officers of the organization was Rabbi STEPHEN S. WISE of New York City. They also indicate that they had been active in bringing the Jewish colonization desires to the proper United Mations committees on various occasions. The files also indicated that the following individuals in Milwaukee are members and former officers of the ZOA branch in Milwaukee:

ARTHUR SHUTKIN
3920 North Maryland Avenue
Former alderman of the city of Milwaukee

HERMAN D. SCHWARTZ 2773 North Sherman Boulevard Insurance broker

JOSEPH W. BERLIENT 3904 North 46th Street Salesman, Badger Tobacco Company

JOSEPH BRINDIS
5509 West Washington Boulevard
Treasurer Warilyn Shoe Company

HARRY L. EPSTEIN

4633 North Kramer Street

President and treasurer - Metropolitan Liquor Company

AIEX HIMMEIMAN
'803 East Belleview
Ebbloye9 - U. S. Internal Revenue Department

HYMAFIERNER
2747 North Teutonia
President and treasurer of Lerner Appliance Districutors, Inc.







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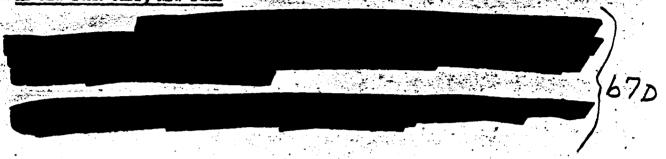


MI 97-73

LEADS

NEW YORK OFFICE

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK



WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will ascertain if the ZOA is presently registered with the Attorney General pursuant to the terms of the Registration Act.

Will also attempt to ascertain if the organization is registered with any department of the U. S. Government relative to the transmittal of funds for relief purposes to Palestine and as to whether any account of the funds and/or relief goods is made to this agency.







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Assistant Attorney General T. Vincent Quinn Griminal Division Director, FRI ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA NEUTRALITY ACT: FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT 341909-8 Reference is made to your memorandum dated February 6, 1948 (TVQ: WEF: MBL: val 71-20-0), bearing the caption, Organization; Foreign Agents Registration Act, " in which you requested this Bureau to undertake an investigation to determine if possible the name of the organization responsible for In connection with your request, there is enclosed herewith one copy of each of the following reports: Report of Special Agent at Milwaukes, Wisconsin. Report of Special Agent dated April 9, 1948 at Washington, D. C. After reviewing the enclosed reports, will you kindly advise what further investigation, if any, should be undertaken and whether in your opinion the facts developed indicate a violation of any Federal Statute. ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE OCT 12 1979 BY SO 165K-DLC

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100-34 BOMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	- -
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REPORT MADE AT DATE WHEN MADE PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE TO WHICH W	
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF ALERICA NEUTRALITY ACT REGISTRATION ACT	
Synopsis of FACTS: Subject organization not registered with the Attorney General nor recorded with Advisors Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid.	m
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DATE OCT 12 1979 BY SOLGSK-DLC JMF July BEE- 133/48	
REFERENCE: Report of Special Agen dated March 29, 1948, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. #237-060 DETAILS: 12 AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	\$
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Foreign Aid, advised Agent that the subject organization is not recorded with that committee. It is pointed out that the committee functioned during the war under the name of War Relief Control Board until May, 1946, and that since then, the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid has been recording, on a voluntary basis, organizations engaged in raising funds for relief purposes and transmitting them to the respective foreign countries.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -